during the last two years, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to stop this type of fraud; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No separate statistics are maintained in this regard.

(b) and (c) Regular and special drives are conducted from time to time. The persons so apprehended are dealt with as per provisions of law.

Collision of Purushottam Express

620. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Purushottam Express bound for Puri collided head on with a light engine on the same track near Gamariah station in Jharkhand on 20th June, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of persons who lost their lives, seriously injured and those not seriously injured in the accident;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held, if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount of ex-gratia payment made to each category of accident victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of this accident, 4 persons were grievously injured and 22 persons sustained simple injuries. There were no deaths.

(c) Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle is inquiring into this accident and has submitted his preliminary report. As per provisional findings the accident occurred due to lapse on the part of driver of light engine. Officials responsible for this accident have been put under suspension and action has been initiated on the immediate recommendations.

(d) Rs. 20,000/- to 4 grievously injured persons and Rs. 1,10,000 to 22 persons who sustained simple injuries has been paid as *ex-gratia*.